

COTTON ACREAGE MUCH REDUCED

Reports Received at Headquarters Indicate One-Third Curtailment

STATE WIDE CONFERENCE LARGELY ATTENDED

South Carolina Thoroughly Organized to Win the Fight.

Columbia, April 4.—Statistics collected from every county in South Carolina and from all the States in the cotton belt, made public at a meeting of 800 cotton growers in Craven Hall in Columbia yesterday, clearly indicate that the farmers have gone on a strike.

These figures show that cotton acreage reduction, which is one of the potent weapons to be wielded by the farmer in his fight for a share in the bargaining process for his finished product, approximately 32 per cent. in South Carolina. A reduction equally as far reaching is reported from every other cotton State. In fact several States have exceeded South Carolina in figures thus far assembled. Georgia, Texas, Oklahoma, Alabama, Mississippi and Virginia claim to have made 33 1-3 per cent. reduction.

The cut in fertilizer to be used under cotton this year in this State was reported by the committee to be only 55 per cent. of the amount used last year.

Yesterday's meeting was doubtless the most representative gathering of farmers, business men and bankers ever assembled in the State and there was not a discordant note in defining the new policy, or in writing the farmer's declaration of independence.

Universal sentiment was that if the farmers had gone on a strike, the objective was not to speculate, but a matter of self-protection. And just as the Saviors told the questioner that the Kingdom of Heaven lay within the querist, so the power to win their fight solely within the scope of action of the farmers or within their "will to win" in the cotton crisis.

Congressman J. Thomas Heflin of Alabama and W. B. Thompson of New Orleans were the chief speakers, but brief and inspiring addresses were made by Governor Cooper, Senator E. D. Smith, and Congressman Lever.

The South Carolina Cotton Association was made a permanent organization, and the central committee was authorized to incorporate, if such procedure was deemed wise. The following delegates were elected:

To the Memphis convention April 10: J. H. Porter, Barnwell; J. P. Matthews, Columbia; J. S. Wannamaker, St. Matthews; G. L. Toole, Aiken; P. T. Gooding, Hampton; H. A. Woodside, Greenville; L. I. Guion, Lugoff; E. W. Dabbs, Mayesville; and J. P. Cheatham, McCormick.

To the New Orleans convention May 14: Governor Cooper; J. T. Liles, Orangeburg; B. Harris, Columbia; J. H. Claffy, Orangeburg; J. S. Wannamaker, St. Matthews; T. P. Cothran, Greenville; W. L. Gray, Laurens; W. W. Long, Clemson College; B. F. McLeod, Charleston; John T. Mackey, Camden; R. M. Mixson, William; Paul Sanders, Ritter; William Gifford, R. G. Rhett, Charleston; L. D. Jennings, Sumter; Ira B. Dunlap, Rock Hill; Douglas McIntyre, Marion; T. G. McLeod, Bishopville; H. E. Montgomery, Kingstree; B. H. Moss, Orangeburg; C. E. Summers, Newberry, and A. M. Benbow, Bamberg.

The meeting was called to order promptly at 12 o'clock by J. Skottow Wannamaker of St. Matthews, chairman of the central committee. After sketching hastily the acreage reduction report, Mr. Wannamaker introduced Congressman Lever, who in turn introduced Congressman Heflin. In connection with the report, Mr. Wannamaker emphasized the added menace which labor shortage brings. The negro has returned from the war with different views and an intensified dissatisfaction with his environment. He is no longer content to work for pre-war wages and the humble hut in which he previously lived did not harmonize with his more lofty ideals. Prohibitive wages were being demanded for labor on the farms, which would be a further factor in reducing the potential crop this year.

In introducing Congressman Heflin, Congressman Lever paid a high tribute to the Alabama representative's consistent labors in the interest of the cotton farmer. Mr. Heflin had been on the agricultural committee of congress 14 years with Mr. Lever. The South Carolina representative thought Mr. Heflin probably had made more cotton speeches than any other man of this generation. His voice had always been raised to champion the fight of the South. Mr. Heflin said in part:

"Since August 1, 1918, United States cotton mills have consumed, up to February 28, 1919, 3,385,000 bales; and we have exported to that date, 3,085,000 bales, amounting to 6,470,000 bales. It will take at least 2,500,000 bales to supply our mills to August 15, 1919, and 2,250,000 bales to supply the neutral and allied countries. This takes from the American cotton supply 6,250,000 bales more, making a total of 13,225,000 bales. This is 1,423,000 bales cotton more than we produced in 1918. The cotton desired by Germany and Austria, which is 3,000,000 bales, is not included in the figures I have mentioned. Add this amount to that already given, and we have a consumptive demand for 4,423,000 bales more than the American crop of 1918. If, as some claim, we had 1,000,000 bales of old cotton on hand September 1, 1918, the consumptive demand for American cotton would

WILSON ILL WITH BAD COLD

Confined to Bed To-Day But Condition Not Regarded As Serious by Physician

COUNCIL OF FOUR MEETS AS USUAL

Col. House Takes the Place of President at Council Table But 'Mr. Wilson Will Be Consulted'

Washington, April 4.—President Wilson is confined to his bed in Paris with a severe cold. Rear Admiral Grayson, the president's physician, cabled Secretary Tumulty today that the president caught cold yesterday and is unable to be about, although his condition is not regarded as serious.

still be 3,423,000 bales greater than the American supply.

"There is no reason in the world why cotton should not now be selling for from 33 to 40 cents a pound. We are going to hold on until it does bring that price. The old haphazard and unintelligent market system no longer obtains in the South.

"On January 21, 1919, the New York Commercial had this article: 'Bear pressure forces new break Cotton off 160 points. Spot markets not affected by the break, and it is probable that they more nearly reflect the real situation.' This is a glorious announcement, gentlemen, and an acknowledgement that you and real cotton in the spot markets have become the dominating factors in the matter of fixing prices.

"The world's supply of cotton is far short of the world's demand, and the American supply is several million bales short of the world's demand for American cotton. The cotton producer is not unreasonable in his price demands. He is not trying to rob anybody. Who ever heard of a cotton producer robbing anybody?"

"It cost more to produce the cotton crop of 1918 than any other crop ever produced in the United States. The producer is entitled to a price that will cover the cost of production plus a reasonable profit. The spinners of the United States have already contracted for the sale of goods to be made from the 1918 crop on the basis of cost to them of from 35 to 40 cents per pound for their cotton supply. The big money is in the manufactured product. We want the spinner to prosper. Unless he can make money manufacturing cotton goods he can not pay us the price that we are entitled to receive for the raw material. It is necessary for the doctrine of 'live and let live' to be recognized and supported by both producer and spinner.

"The spinners of the United States got more money for the goods manufactured from one-third of the cotton crop produced in 1913 than the producers received for the whole crop of 1914, of 16,000,000 bales. "In 1912 Great Britain paid \$401,000,000 for her cotton supply. She manufactured it, and after supplying the millions of her own population in the United Kingdom, she sold the surplus to other nations for \$611,000,000—\$210,000,000 more than her entire cotton supply cost in the output.

"Cotton mills of the United States have made more money for the last two or three years than ever before, and while cotton has sold for a fairly good price, it has not sold for the price justified by the price of cotton goods. The spinners are organized and they are all of one mind when it comes to buying cotton as cheaply as possible, they can obtain financial backing to aid them in a campaign to depress cotton prices. Because they were able to do that they absolutely dictated the price of cotton for years and years.

"But a new day has dawned upon the cotton growing States. There is a tribute power at work now composed of farmer, merchant and banker, standing in front of cotton's mighty stronghold, saying to the bear speculators, 'You shall not pass.' On the far flung battle line in France, our boys stood with faces to the foe, our officers passed along the line just back of them saying to them, 'Hold them, boys, and our boys answered, 'We will hold them,' and then our officers said, 'They must not pass,' and our boys answered back, 'They shall not pass.' When bear speculators, both foreign and domestic, raided the exchanges and commenced to shell us in the effort to break our line and drive us from our position of holding cotton for a profitable price farmers, merchants and bankers drew themselves up in battle line and voices from all over the cotton belt were heard saying, 'Hold them.' And for the first time in the history of cotton production in the United States determined voices answered them back, 'We will hold them.' To break through our line meant suffering and great financial losses to our people in the cotton belt. Shells of falling prices fell thick and fast around farmer, merchant, banker, and the enemy was advancing in the effort to break our line. The battle raged, the situation was grave and serious, and I heard voices again from over the cotton belt saying, 'They must not pass,' and then I heard our farmers, merchants, and bankers answer back, 'They shall not pass.'

Governor Cooper cordially thanked Congressman Heflin in behalf of the audience for the words of encouragement brought. The governor had gathered from talks with many cotton growers who had called at his office that "they could not hold their cotton much longer."

"I have found a solution," the governor said, and then told how a cap-

LLOYD GEORGE DENIES FRICTION

There is No Dissension Between England and France as to Peace Terms

UNDERSTANDING IS COMPLETE

England is Ready to Make Fresh Sacrifices to Secure Safety of France.

Paris, April 4.—In a statement to The Petit Parisien Premier Lloyd George denies that there is dissension between France and England regarding a guarantee for France against Germany.

He declares the understanding between the two governments is complete and England is "ready to make fresh sacrifices, if necessary, to secure the peace and independence of France."

tain of a company of infantrymen in the Thirtieth Division, whose position was made untenable by enflaming fire from the Germans said "he just held on until reinforcements were brought up."

"My suggestion is that you hold your ground until reinforcements come," the governor continued. "Reinforcements will come and the fight can and will be won. A hard fight is ahead, but to lose now would place in jeopardy the chances of winning for years to come. We are not making the fight for one year, and we never had such organization as we now have at our command."

E. D. Smith, United States senator, also made a brief speech. Circumstances naturally made it a hard fight. The men of the Thirtieth Division, if they refused to charge the almost impregnable lines of plutocracy and gain and greed as the South Carolina boys had charged the Hindenburg line. While the war was on the spinners were busy with war contracts and had no time to link hands with the speculators to drive the price of cotton below the cost of production. Now every force of greed was being marshaled into a solid phalanx to restrict the output of mills and to manipulate the markets. The farmer's answer should be, "If you can spin cloth and fill contracts on hot air, then God be with you. But if you expect to sell cloth, then you've got to give me my price."

W. B. Thompson, of New Orleans, was then introduced. Declaring that the holding movement is a matter of self preservation with the cotton farmers and that it is an economic necessity, W. B. Thompson of New Orleans in addressing the cotton convention on the subject of "The Cotton Republic," said in part:

"We well know the proper remedy for the present apparent malady of over supply. We require no advice in the premises from authorities on economics. We need no banking Moses to lead us out of the wilderness. The promptings of homely common sense point the way. Sane common effort will accomplish deliverance. If a merchant becomes over stocked by reason of a boycott or conspiracy on the part of his customers, or for any other reason the demand is restricted and he finds himself burdened with a stock of necessities which in his said customers must have, he holds his stock intact and reduces his orders to jobber to such an extent as will enable him to work off the entire stock at a profit. This is the situation in cotton today. The business of producing and marketing cotton, although it is transacted by a multitude of individual units, differs in the fundamental principles of operation from no other similar business whatsoever. We simply must hold our stocks, which for the moment it seems nobody wants, and in order that we may so hold it is necessary that we reduce production to a point which will enable us to market both the old and new supply at a profitable figure.

"If we faithfully practice this policy there is not the shadow of a doubt but that we will realize remunerative prices not only for the supply on hand but for the next crop as well. If we depart from this policy by forcing our cotton upon a bazaar demand, a panic will be precipitated, many farmers, merchants and bankers will be ruined and disaster will fall upon the cotton South and hurt upon the nation, without any possible benefit to anybody except to a few speculators and a temporary profit to the spinners, who, together with the whole cotton goods using world will pay a heavy penalty hereafter through the inevitable cotton famine which will in such case prevail next year and probably for years afterward.

"If we depart from the aforesaid policy, not through the sacrifice of present holdings but by bringing about anything like a full production the coming season, we are in no better situation. Immediately it should become apparent that the cotton interests had failed to take intelligent control of the production problem and were like so many spineless and idiotic sheep rushing pell-mell into the hands of the shearer, our adversaries would grin and say I told you so, and proceed at once to hammer the market into a state of panic.

"Considering the inevitable lateness of the crop due to almost unprecedented weather conditions and in view of the labor situation and the extraordinary boll weevil menace to a late planted crop, I do not believe it possible to produce anything like a full output. But that is not the question. As far as the present emergency is concerned, it will do no good for the world to find out next fall that a short crop has been made. We must make it impossible to make other than a very short crop, and we must make the demonstration now. During the

INDEPENDENCE FOR FILIPINOS

Secretary Baker Makes Large Promises in Name Of President

TIME HAS COME FOR FREEDOM OF ISLANDS

Secretary of War Declares That American People Love Liberty Too Dearly to Deny It to Filipinos.

Washington, April 4.—Members of a special mission from the Philippine legislature who are here seeking immediate independence for the island, were told today by Secretary Baker that he spoke President Wilson's mind when he said he believed the time had come to grant the complete independence desired by the Filipino people. Secretary Baker said he believed the mission would be able to carry home word that the American people love liberty too dearly to deny it to them.

Steel Price Row

Navy Will Buy on Competitive Bids Regardless of Industrial Board

Washington, April 4.—Steel for the navy will continue to be bought on competitive bidding, regardless of the prices agreed upon by the industrial board with the steel industry and whatever may be the outcome of the conferences now going on to determine the future policies of the board, acting Secretary Roosevelt said today. This decision was reached after the legal officers of the department had ruled that the department is required by law to secure this material by public advertisement of contracts.

Favor Danish Claims

Peace Conference Recognizes Right to Recover Schleswig-Holstein

Paris, April 4.—Danish aspirations are regarded favorably by the peace conference, The Matin says. Indications are that Denmark will recover part of the Schleswig-Holstein she desires. The conference, the newspaper adds, has decided to return to Denmark immediately natives of Schleswig-Holstein who served in the German army and were captured by the allies.

Artillery Battles

Continues Practically No Change in Conditions on Archangel Front

Archangel, Tuesday, April 1.—The Associated Press correspondent at allied headquarters this afternoon reported the situation unchanged on all fronts. The enemy has made no new attacks since being severely repulsed yesterday, but the artillery on both sides continues active in the Odozerskaia sector.

Australian Labor

Troubles Angry Crowd Smashes Windows. Hotels Closed

Brisbane, Australia, April 4.—Labor newspapers here, which praised the raising of the red flag by Russian demonstrators, have been menaced by angry crowds which smashed windows of buildings. All hotels are closed until further notice.

Wurtemberg Strike

Ends Labor Disorder Suddenly Collapsed in Stuttgart

Berlin, April 4.—The Wurtemberg government announces that the strike in that section of Germany has suddenly collapsed, according to a Stuttgart telegram.

next three months the fight will be won or lost. If the government report on acreage, which is issued in the latter part of May shows anything like a full cotton planting, we may expect the deluge. If on the other hand said report shows a radically reduced cotton acreage or if in the meantime we demonstrate by our professions and actions that it will be impossible for the government to report anything other than a radically reduced acreage, then the fight will be won and we will secure remunerative prices, not only for our present holdings but for the small coming crop as well. That we will do this very thing I am certain. The absolute reasonableness and the absolute necessity of the cotton holding and acreage reduction movement has gripped the farmers, merchants, bankers of the South. From all sections come the most confident and encouraging reports. I believe that this movement will be what in politics is termed a 'land slide.' One of these fine mornings the world will wake up and find that, in this day of revolutions, a revolution in cotton producing business has been enacted over night. But it is not only advisable but necessary that intense energy and constant vigilance be employed up to very hour which decides the contest. We have issue in our own hands and ours is the power to achieve property or to precipitate calamity. Let us but fully realize this truth and there can be but one answer. We vote unanimously for prosperity."

The U. S. Department of Labor advises you to

Save Your Money By Building a Home

We advise you to save even more money by

Buying Your Building Material From

Booth & McLeod, Inc.

When you think of building think of us.

BELGIUM'S CLAIM BEFORE COUNCIL

King Albert Tells Council of Four That Time of Promises Has Passed

LIFE OF COUNTRY IS AT STAKE

Council Must Act, Says Ruler. Immediate Advance of Ten Million Francs Wanted.

Paris, April 4 (By the Associated Press).—Belgium's case has been laid before the peace conference by the most distinguished advocate Belgium could have chosen. King Albert has been in Paris for the past three days, and in numerous conferences with the representatives of the great powers he has outlined the needs of his country and told of the steps that must be taken immediately if Belgium is to be restored.

King Albert has had long conversations with President Wilson, Col. Edward M. House, Premier Clemenceau and David Lloyd George. These conversations led up to his appearance before the council of four today.

A member of the Belgian peace delegation told the Associated Press today that, shorn of all its diplomatic niceties, what King Albert told the council might be summarized thus:

"The time of promises has passed. If Belgium is to live the council must act."

The Associated Press is able to state that three questions of vital importance to Belgium financially, economically and politically, were discussed. The first question was the immediate advance to Belgium of about 10,000,000 francs, the second, the exportation to Belgium from England and the United States of raw materials, and the third, the cession to Belgium of the left bank of the Scheldt River and the Lemberg Peninsula.

The first item represents the value of German marks left in circulation in Belgium. After the departure of the Germans the ministry of finance sent out an urgent call to holders of the marks to deposit them in the banks. The amount was estimated to be about 2,000,000,000, and it had been the government's intention to redeem them at the par value of one franc, 25 centimes. Belgium was not prepared for the avalanche of marks that resulted. Eight billion marks passed through the bank windows into the vaults. The banks were unable to redeem this amount of paper and depositors were merely given receipts, stating that a certain amount of marks were held to their credit until such time as arrangements could be made to reimburse them.

The payment of an immediate indemnity by Germany was relied upon to enable repayment for these deposits. The indemnity thus far has failed to materialize. Depositors can not draw against these credits, with the result that some 10,000,000,000 of francs are idle, as the banks are paying no interest on such deposits.

The importation of raw materials is said to be indispensable to retrieving Belgium from the economic standpoint.

The correspondent has just returned from an extended trip in Belgium. Everywhere he found manufacturers complaining of the situation arising from the fact that while the Americans and British permit exportation into Belgium of manufactured articles they thus far have failed to export articles which would permit of industries resuming work.

The delegates will act in co-operation with the members of congress from this and other cotton growing states in their efforts to secure amendments to the national banking laws and they will also take the necessary steps to assist in the organization of a foreign and domestic corporation for the marketing of cotton and especially to take the necessary steps to secure the use of the government warehouses located in their States.

Daughters of Confederacy

Program Given Up to Addresses Loving Cups and Banners

Louisville, April 4.—Business affairs and a number of addresses were on today's program of the Daughters of the Confederacy Convention here. A number of banners and loving cups were awarded last night for the best essays upon subjects of importance to Confederate history. North Carolina for the second consecutive time received Mrs. L. H. Paines banner, State President, Mrs. Jackson D. Thrash, of Raleigh, being the receiver.

Sir Wm. Crookes Dead

Famous English Chemist Passes Away in London

London, April 5.—Sir William Crookes, the famous chemist and physicist, died here today.

COTTON PLANS BEING RUSHED

Delegates to New Orleans Will Meet in Columbia April 15th

SUGGESTED CHANGE IN BANKING LAWS

Unused Government Warehouses in Charleston For Cotton Storage.

Columbia, April 5.—The twenty delegates, elected by the big cotton convention held in Columbia Thursday to study the cotton marketing problem and to meet with delegates from other States at a convention to be held in New Orleans May 14, for the purpose of discussing same, will hold a meeting in the rooms of the Columbia Chamber of Commerce on April 15 at 11 a. m. Members of the South Carolina delegation in congress have been asked to meet with them.

At this conference a movement will be launched to have certain changes made in the national and State banking laws concerning cotton. The convention Thursday adopted resolutions declaring that the banking laws, both State and national, should be so revised as to permit a bank to carry for the producer cotton in the same way that Liberty Loan bonds are now carried, without charging this against the credit to be granted him, "in other words," states the resolution "cotton stored in a warehouse, properly insured, being self-redeeming, liquid, and one of the safest of all assets, should not be handled so as to cripple and retard the credit of the producer, and force him to dump it on the market and sell as 'distressed' cotton resulting in serious injury and loss to the producer."

The legislatures and governors of the various cotton growing States are to be petitioned to amend the State banking laws so that the relief needed may be had and the South Carolina delegation in congress will be urged to take the initiative in securing the needed amendment to the federal banking laws.

The committee will also take up with the South Carolina congressional delegation the methods employed by the government at present in making crop reports. The convention Thursday denounced the methods now employed as crude, inaccurate and incorrect and as failing to meet the necessities of the occasion.

The South Carolina delegates to the New Orleans meeting will at their conference here appoint committees to take up this matter and they will also take up the matter of securing the large government warehouses now located at Charleston for use as cotton warehouses, to be used by a marketing corporation.

There are six government warehouses in Charleston each 1,250 feet in length by 160 feet in width and sprinkled throughout. These warehouses are said to have modern appliances for handling cotton or any other commodity economically.

The government will probably have no use for these warehouses now that the war is over. It is the plan of the cotton association to make an effort to secure them to be used by a marketing corporation as cotton warehouses.

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Bolsheviki Attack

Russians Lose Heavily on Archangel Front

London, April 4.—The Bolsheviki delivered an attack on the Archangel front without artillery preparation during the last forty-eight hours, but were beaten off with fair amount of losses, according to news received here. The allied losses were slight. The attack occurred at Bolshoea Ozera.